

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

ON

THE HEALTH

OF THE

WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT

DURING 1903.

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—BY—

ALEXANDER WELSH, M.D., WHITWORTH,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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Whitworth :

H. O. HOWARD, PRINTER AND STATIONER, MARKET STREET.

# THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

*Consists of the following Members :*

CHAIRMAN—MR. B. F. STUTTARD.

MESSRS. ROBERT BAMFORD.

JAMES W. HILL.

JAMES HOWORTH.

RICHARD JACKSON.

ALGERNON A. MERCER.

JOSEPH RUDMAN.

JAMES WILKINSON.

# WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

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## Medical Officer's Annual Report for the year 1903.

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*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Whitworth  
Urban District.*

GENTLEMEN :

I have the honour to submit to your consideration the Annual Health Report of the Whitworth Urban District, for the year 1903.

By Section 14 of the duties of the Medical Officer of Health, as defined by the general order of the Local Government Board, it is stated that the annual report of such officer shall comprise :

1st. A summary of action taken during the year for preventing the spread of disease.

2nd. An account of the sanitary state of the district generally, at the end of the year.

3rd. An account of the enquiries made by such officer, as to conditions injurious to health existing in the district, and of the proceedings relating to such conditions, in which he has taken part, or advised, under the Public Health Act, 1875.

4th. An account of the supervision exercised by him, or, on his advice, over places and houses which the sanitary authority have power to regulate, together with the action, if any, taken in regard to offensive trades, to factories, and to workshops.

5th. Tabulated statement of the sickness and mortality within the district, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities.

In addition to the above, Section 132 of the Factory and Workshops Act requires that

“The Medical Officer of Health of every District Council shall, in his annual report to them, report specifically on the administration of this Act in workshops and workplaces, and he shall send a copy of his annual report, or so much of it as deals with this subject, to the Secretary of State.”

The area of the Whitworth Urban District is 6,200 acres, and the estimated population 9,688.

## BIRTHS.

During the year 218 births were registered. Males 108, Females 110, total 218 ; giving a birth rate of 22·5 per 1000. The rate for the previous ten years being :—

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1893.....24·1 | 1898.....24·2 |
| 1894.....23·3 | 1899.....22·8 |
| 1895.....20·4 | 1900.....24·9 |
| 1896.....21·5 | 1901.....20·8 |
| 1897.....22·7 | 1902.....22·5 |
| 1903.....22·5 |               |

The following table gives the births in the respective Wards:—

| Year.     | Healey. | Whitworth. | Facit.  | Shawforth |
|-----------|---------|------------|---------|-----------|
| 1901..... | 23..... | 75.....    | 59..... | 43        |
| 1902..... | 32..... | 87.....    | 52..... | 47        |
| 1903..... | 42..... | 70.....    | 56..... | 50        |

The natural increase of the population by excess of births over deaths for the year is 79. Last year the increase was 71.

### DEATHS.

The mortality returns for the year again bear favourable comparison with previous years.

During the year, 139 deaths were registered, viz.: Males 68, Females 71, giving a death rate of 14·34 per 1000.

The rates for preceding years being as under:

|           |       |           |      |
|-----------|-------|-----------|------|
| 1893..... | 18·1  | 1898..... | 16·9 |
| 1894..... | 14·3  | 1899..... | 17·4 |
| 1895..... | 18·4  | 1900..... | 19·6 |
| 1896..... | 18·0  | 1901..... | 17·2 |
| 1897..... | 16·7  | 1902..... | 15·2 |
| 1903..... | 14·34 |           |      |

The following table gives the deaths in the respective Wards:—

| Year.     | Healey. | Whitworth. | Facit.  | Shawforth |
|-----------|---------|------------|---------|-----------|
| 1901..... | 26..... | 59.....    | 33..... | 47        |
| 1902..... | 19..... | 69.....    | 30..... | 29        |
| 1903..... | 20..... | 53.....    | 36..... | 30        |

AND

The following table gives the mortality from all causes at the subjoined ages:—

|                                   |       |   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---|-----|
| Deaths under 1 year .....         | 31    | } | 38  |
| ,, above 1 and under 5 years..... | 7     |   |     |
| ,, " 5 " " 15 " .....             | 4     | } | 101 |
| ,, " 15 " " 25 " .....            | 8     |   |     |
| ,, " 25 " " 65 " .....            | 60    |   |     |
| ,, " 65 " " and upwards.....      | 29    |   |     |
|                                   | <hr/> |   |     |
|                                   | 139   |   | 139 |

### INFANT MORTALITY.

By this is meant the proportion of deaths of infants under one year, to the births registered, and is expressed as being so many per 1000 births.

During the year 31 deaths under one year were registered: an increase of 9 on the previous year. This is equal to an infantile mortality of 142·2 per 1000 births.

The following table gives the causes of infantile mortality and the months of occurrence:—

|            |  |              |
|------------|--|--------------|
| January.   | Pneumonia.....   | 1            |
| February.  | Convulsions and insufficient vitality .....                                | 2            |
| March.     | Insufficient vitality (2), enteritis,<br>convulsions .....                 | 4            |
| April.     | Wasting, insufficient vitality, meningitis,<br>bronchitis, pneumonia ..... | 5            |
| May.       | Meningitis. wasting .....  | 2            |
| June.      | Accident .....   | 1            |
| July.      | Convulsions.....   | 1            |
| August.    | Convulsions.....   | 1            |
| September. | Nil.....   | 0            |
| October.   | Convulsions, debility, bronchitis, wasting,<br>whooping cough.....         | 5            |
| November.  | Wasting, bronchitis (2), convulsions.....                                  | 4            |
| December.  | Convulsions (3), gastritis, pneumonia.....                                 | 5            |
|            |  | Total.    31 |



Of the diseases mentioned in this table most may be regarded as to a very large extent preventable. Debility, and insufficient vitality are vague terms, and may be used when the exact nature of a disease is difficult to diagnose.

Convulsions is frequently due to improper feeding, and Bronchitis and Pneumonia to undue exposure and improper clothing, but the influence of the former, viz. improper feeding, is undoubtedly one of the most potent factors in raising the mortality of disease incident to this period. This is not necessarily due to want of food, but it is from want of proper food administered in a judicious manner, and due chiefly to the erroneous ideas which prevail amongst the industrial classes on the subject of infant foods.

The following table gives the number of deaths under one year for the previous ten years.

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1893.....42 | 1898.....30 |
| 1894.....29 | 1899.....30 |
| 1895.....37 | 1900.....44 |
| 1896.....39 | 1901.....30 |
| 1897.....48 | 1902.....22 |
| 1903.....31 |             |

## CAUSES OF MORTALITY.

| DISEASES.                                  | 1902 | 1903 |
|--|------|------|
| Small-pox. ....                            | 0    | 0    |
| Measles ....                               | 1    | 0    |
| Scarlet Fever.....                         | 0    | 1    |
| Whooping Cough ....                        | 0    | 1    |
| Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.....       | 0    | 0    |
| Croup .....                                | 0    | 0    |
| { Typhus .....                             | 0    | 0    |
| Fever { Enteric .....                      | 1    | 1    |
| { Other continued .....                    | 0    | 0    |
| Epidemic Influenza.....                    | 1    | 0    |
| Cholera .....                              | 0    | 0    |
| Plague .....                               | 0    | 0    |
| Diarrhœa.....                              | 2    | 0    |
| Enteritis.....                             | 0    | 0    |
| Erysipelas.....                            | 0    | 0    |
| Other Septic diseases.....                 | 1    | 0    |
| Phthisis.....                              | 14   | 12   |
| Other Tubercular diseases.....             | 5    | 4    |
| Cancer, Malignant disease.....             | 3    | 13   |
| Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.....   | 29   | 24   |
| Other diseases of respiratory organs.....  | 0    | 0    |
| Alcoholism and Cirrhosis of Liver.....     | 0    | 1    |
| Venereal diseases.....                     | 0    | 0    |
| Premature Birth.....                       | 0    | 0    |
| Diseases and Accidents of Parturition..... | 0    | 1    |
| Heart disease.....                         | 18   | 6    |
| Accidents.....                             | 5    | 4    |
| Suicides.....                              | 0    | 2    |
| Coroner's Enquiry and Inquest.....         | 0    | 2    |
| All other diseases.....                    | 67   | 67   |
| Totals.....                                | 147  | 139  |



## ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The seven principal Zymotic diseases, viz : Small-pox, Measles, Scarlatina, (Diphtheria and Membranous Croup,) Whooping Cough, Diarrhœa, and Enteric Fever account for three deaths during the year; one from Whooping Cough in Shawforth ward, one from Scarlatina in Healey ward, one from Enteric in Facit ward.

The death rate is  $\cdot 31$ , and the following table gives the rates for the previous ten years :—

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1893.....1.8  | 1898.....1.1  |
| 1894.....0.51 | 1899.....0.5  |
| 1895.....1.4  | 1900.....1.8  |
| 1896.....2.2  | 1901.....0.31 |
| 1897.....1.58 | 1902.....0.41 |
| 1903......31  |               |

Considering the large increase in the number of infectious cases notified during the year the mortality may be considered as very satisfactory.

As the diseases under this class are spread chiefly by the too early association of the sick with the healthy and the too early return to school after sickness of a doubtful or infectious nature, I would take this opportunity of calling your attention to the alterations recently adopted by the Education Department.

“The Education Codes of past years contained an article (101\*) which enabled school authorities to claim grant in respect of children who have been excluded from school, because they were suffering from infectious diseases. In the recently issued “Provisional Code” of the Board of Education Article 101\* is abrogated. This

Article has been most advantageous to the public health, as school attendance is controlled on the one hand by teachers of the schools, by attendance officers acting under the local Educational Authority, and by the district Sanitary Authority acting on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health. It is obvious that the withdrawal of this Article will be detrimental, first by causing the too early return to school of children not completely convalescent from acute disease ; and secondly, by making it more difficult to exclude from attendance at school, children who are still capable of spreading infectious disease, because they have suffered from slight attacks, or they have been recently in contact with cases of disease. Under the new conditions the scholar recently convalescent will tend to be "rushed" back to school and much harm may result in many instances."

101 cases of infectious diseases have been notified during the year, viz. : Scarlatina 59 ; Enteric Fever 10 ; Erysipelas 18 ; and Small-pox 14. Considering the large increase in the number of notifications for the year, the zymotic mortality is satisfactory compared with that of previous years.

### **SMALL-POX.**

As stated in the "Special Report" presented to the Council, our first case of Small-pox was notified on the 24th of March.

J. K., aged 22 years, came from Hebden Bridge (where the disease was epidemic) to Facit, on Saturday, the 14th.

On the evening of the 24th, on visiting the case, we found in the house down stairs (1) J. R., the owner of the house, (2) his sister, (3) J. D., (4) M. F., (5) P. O'D., (6) J. D., and (7) P. C.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, were at once re-vaccinated and 7 refused ; 5 and 7 were visitors, the others lodgers. The man was removed to the hospital, the other inmates put under "quarantine" for 14 days, and other measures taken to prevent the further spread of the disease.

In this I think we were successful, as the second case was not reported until the 17th of April, when we received notice of the case of

D. P., aged 22 years, labourer, residing at Millgate. D. P. had been at Bury and Preston from the 2nd of April. He arrived from Preston on the 9th of April, where, so far as we could ascertain, he had probably contracted the disease in a lodging-house at Sandholes.

Our third case occurred in the same house on the 27th, (ten days after) in the person of one of D. P.'s sisters.

I have appended the following table in order to show the details and progress of the epidemic.

Table showing the details and progress of Small-pox epidemic during 1903.

| Admitted. | NAME.               | Age. | Ward.        | *Confluent<br>or<br>Discrete. | Vaccinated<br>or<br>Un-vaccinated. | Discharged. | Days<br>in<br>hospital |
|-----------|---------------------|------|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| March 24  | Kelly, John .....   | 22   | Facit .....  | discrete.....                 | vac. & re-vac.                     | April 27    | 36                     |
| April 17  | Pickles, David..... | 22   | "            | "                             | "                                  | May 7       | 20                     |
| " 27      | Gilligan, Mrs. .... | 40   | "            | "                             | "                                  | June 8      | 42                     |
| May 16    | Jackson, T. J. .... | 46   | Whitworth..  | "                             | vaccinated                         | " 4         | 19                     |
| " 20      | Green, Selina ..... | 35   | Facit .....  | confluent....                 | "                                  | July 2      | 43                     |
| " 23      | Harris, Charles ... | 23   | "            | discrete.....                 | "                                  | June 17     | 25                     |
| " 25      | Fletcher, Mrs.....  | 29   | Healey ..... | —                             | —                                  | —           | —                      |
| June 25   | Howorth, Mrs.....   | 32   | Facit .....  | confluent....                 | un-vaccinated                      | August 5    | 41                     |
| " 28      | Fawthorp, Alex. ... | 45   | "            | "                             | "                                  | " 8         | 41                     |
| July 6    | Butterworth Mrs. {  | 43   | Whitworth..  | "                             | vaccinated                         | " 7         | 32                     |
| " 6       | " Sarah             | 19   | "            | very mild,...                 | "                                  | " 1         | 26                     |
| " 16      | " Annie             | 9    | "            | "                             | "                                  | " 7         | 22                     |
| " 21      | Sutcliffe, Mrs..... | 32   | "            | confluent....                 | "                                  | " 21        | 31                     |
| August 2  | Hall, Hy. William.  | 32   | Healey ..... | mild.....                     | "                                  | " 20        | 18                     |

\* Confluent = severe.

Discrete = mild.



From the 16th of May to the 25th of May we received notification of four new cases, and provision had to be made for additional accommodation at the hospital to meet this unexpected increase of the outbreak.

It will also be observed that the district was free from the disease from the 25th of May to the 25th of June, and from that date to the 2nd of August we received notification of seven new cases including three from one family.

On the 6th of July the mother and one daughter aged 19, were removed to the hospital. Ten days later Annie, aged 9 years, sickened and was also removed to the hospital. Seven members of the family were still left at a home with insufficient accommodation. With such a large family the situation became serious, and it was resolved to isolate the family by removing all to apartments adjoining the hospital, which is well adapted for this purpose.

On the 21st of July we received notification of another case which was clearly traceable to direct communication, and on the 2nd of August our last case was reported in Healey ward. The measures adopted to prevent the spread of the disease were the usual ones, viz. quarantine, vaccination, and re-vaccination of the contacts—isolation, destruction of bedding, and disinfection.

With regard to the latter I may say that it is one thing to have an idea of what is necessary to disinfection, and another to use methods which are effective, and do not give rise to complaints about injury to property.

The great and occasional difficulty of diagnosing mild small-pox from chicken-pox—and the risks of error in diagnosis involved during a severe epidemic of small-pox, fully justify one in suggesting that chicken-pox should be scheduled as one of the notifiable diseases under the Public Health Act.

The effect of the Finsen, or red rays of light on the eruption were negative, while the direct penetration of the sun's rays through the red medium were unbearable.

### MEASLES.

We have not received notification of any case, and no death has been registered during the year.

### SCARLATINA.

From the 2nd of May, 1902, to January 18th, 1903, the district was free from Scarlatina, and the following table shows the progress of the disease from that date.

| MONTH.         | HEALEY. | WHITWORTH. | FACIT   | SHAWFORTH. |
|----------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|
| January,.....  | 0 ..... | 2 .....    | 0 ..... | 0          |
| February, .... | 0 ..... | 0 .....    | 0 ..... | 1          |
| March,.....    | 0 ..... | 0 .....    | 0 ..... | 0          |
| April .....    | 0 ..... | 1 .....    | 0 ..... | 0          |
| May, .....     | 0 ..... | 0 .....    | 0 ..... | 0          |
| June,.....     | 0 ..... | 0 .....    | 4 ..... | 0          |
| July, .....    | 0 ..... | 3 .....    | 4 ..... | 0          |
| August, .....  | 0 ..... | 0 .....    | 3 ..... | 0          |
| September,...  | 1 ..... | 0 .....    | 0 ..... | 1          |
| October, ..... | 2 ..... | 4 .....    | 4 ..... | 5          |
| November,...   | 0 ..... | 10 .....   | 1 ..... | 1          |
| December, ...  | 3 ..... | 4 .....    | 5 ..... | 0          |
|                | 6       | 24         | 21      | 8          |

On January 18th the first case was notified as occurring in Whitworth Ward, a second case in the same Ward on the 19th, while the third case was notified from Troughgate, a distance of three miles intervening. From



this date the disease was sporadic in character until the the last quarter of the year, when we received notification of 15 cases in October, 12 in November, and 12 in December.

The disease during this period was mild, many of the cases being difficult to diagnose, and in some notification was deferred until desquamation revealed the true character of the sickness. Altogether 59 cases were notified; one case only proved fatal. As the result of several interviews with the headmasters, it was not considered necessary or desirable to close any of the schools, although at this time there was a fair amount of general sickness which materially affected the average attendance of scholars.

### **WHOOPING COUGH**

was largely prevalent in Shawforth ward during the autumn and interfered with the average attendance of scholars at Shawforth Wesleyan school. Not being notifiable we could form no opinion as to the extent of the outbreak. One death was registered in October.

### **MEMBRANOUS CROUP AND DIPHTHERIA.**

We have not received any notification, and no death has been registered from the above diseases during the year.

### **ENTERIC FEVER.**

During the year 1902 four cases of this disease were notified. In 1903 ten cases have been notified, and one death registered as having occurred in Facit ward.

The following table shows the progress of the disease during the year.

| MONTH.         | HEALEY. | WHITWORTH. | FACIT.  | SHAWFORTH. |
|----------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|
| January, ..... | 0 ..... | 0 .....    | 1 ..... | 0          |
| February,..... | 0 ..... | 0 .....    | 0 ..... | 0          |
| March,.....    | 0 ..... | 0 .....    | 0 ..... | 0          |
| April, .....   | 0 ..... | 0 .....    | 1 ..... | 0          |
| May, .....     | 0 ..... | 0 .....    | 0 ..... | 0          |
| June,.....     | 0 ..... | 1 .....    | 0 ..... | 0          |
| July, .....    | 0 ..... | 0 .....    | 0 ..... | 0          |
| August, .....  | 0 ..... | 0 .....    | 0 ..... | 0          |
| September,...  | 0 ..... | 0 .....    | 1 ..... | 0          |
| October, ..... | 0 ..... | 0 .....    | 2 ..... | 0          |
| November,...   | 0 ..... | 0 .....    | 1 ..... | 0          |
| December, ...  | 0 ..... | 1 .....    | 2 ..... | 0          |
|                | 0       | 2          | 8       | 0          |
|                | 10      |            |         |            |

It is well known that Enteric Fever varies in its severity in different epidemics, and although other causes may operate to develop the disease, such as condition of soil, &c., the chief factors in propagating Enteric may be regarded as polluted water, milk contamination, and defective drainage.

The increase in the number of cases in Facit ward is exceptional, and so far as could be traced we may exclude an infection from any of the above causes.

There was always wanting in our investigations some corroborating evidence which would justify us in assigning any one of the above causes as proving beyond doubt the certainty or uncertainty of our conclusions with regard to the source of infection.

With one exception the cases were scattered. In this family the source of infection in the first instance could not be traced. The living room downstairs, for

want of better accommodation, was used as the bed room for the patient.

The food was cooked here, and the meals taken under conditions favourable to the development of the poison, either by germs conveyed from soiled linen or air contamination.

### **ERYSIPELAS.**

During the year 1903, 18 cases have been notified, viz. : Healey ward 3 ; Whitworth ward 9 ; Facit ward 4 ; Shawforth ward 2, =18.

### **FUERPERAL FEVER.**

None.

### **DIARRHŒA.**

None.

### **PHTHISIS.**

During the year 1903, Twelve deaths have been registered ; a decrease of two on the previous year.

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| First quarter,..... | 3 |
| Second quarter ...  | 4 |
| Third quarter ..... | 3 |
| Fourth quarter....  | 2 |

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For previous years in Wards :—

|                 | 1901.    | 1902.    | 1903.    |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Healey .....    | 3        | 3        | 1        |
| Whitworth ..... | 7        | 5        | 5        |
| Facit.....      | 4        | 3        | 3        |
| Shawforth.....  | 3        | 3        | 3        |
|                 | <hr/> 17 | <hr/> 14 | <hr/> 12 |

And the following table gives the number of cases for the preceding ten years :—

|              |  |             |
|--------------|--|-------------|
| 1893.....10  |  | 1898.....19 |
| 1894.....13  |  | 1899.....13 |
| 1895.....14  |  | 1900.....13 |
| 1896..... 7  |  | 1901.....17 |
| 1897.....10  |  | 1902.....14 |
| 1903..... 12 |  |             |

I would again call the attention of the public to the vital necessity of thorough ventilation in their sleeping apartments. This is a matter which I think is culpably overlooked.

### BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA.

During the year there has been a further decline in the number of deaths from respiratory diseases as shown by the following table :—

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Healey ward.....  | 2  |
| Whitworth ward..  | 14 |
| Facit ward.....   | 5  |
| Shawforth ward... | 3  |
|                   | —  |
|                   | 24 |

The number of cases and the Wards are shown in the following table for the years :—

|                 | 1901. | 1902. | 1903. |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Healey .....    | 6     | 2     | 2     |
| Whitworth ..... | 14    | 13    | 14    |
| Facit.....      | 7     | 4     | 5     |
| Shawforth ..... | 11    | 10    | 3     |
|                 | —     | —     | —     |
|                 | 38    | 29    | 24    |

And the following table gives the total deaths for the previous ten years:—

|              |  |             |
|--------------|--|-------------|
| 1893.....43  |  | 1898.....25 |
| 1894.....35  |  | 1899.....54 |
| 1895.....45  |  | 1900.....48 |
| 1896.....37  |  | 1901.....38 |
| 1897.....45  |  | 1902.....29 |
| 1903..... 24 |  |             |

### HEART DISEASE.

There has been a considerable decrease in the number of deaths from Heart disease during the year 1903, viz. : 6. This is the lowest since the year 1894.

|                 | 1901.   | 1902.   | 1903. |
|-----------------|---------|---------|-------|
| Healey .....    | 4 ..... | 3 ..... | 5     |
| Whitworth.....  | 4 ..... | 8 ..... | 0     |
| Facit.....      | 4 ..... | 5 ..... | 1     |
| Shawforth ..... | 1 ..... | 2 ..... | 0     |
|                 | <hr/>   | <hr/>   | <hr/> |
|                 | 13      | 18      | 6     |

And the following table gives the number of deaths for the previous ten years:—

|              |  |             |
|--------------|--|-------------|
| 1893..... 7  |  | 1898.....14 |
| 1894..... 5  |  | 1899.....13 |
| 1895.....11  |  | 1900.....11 |
| 1896..... 7  |  | 1901.....13 |
| 1897.....13  |  | 1902.....18 |
| 1903 ..... 6 |  |             |

### SANITARY MATTERS.

General and special inspection as to the sanitary condition of the district has been carried out periodically on conditions affecting the public health.



## **SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.**

During the year the Health Committee have given considerable attention to this class of work, acting under the advice of the Sanitary Inspector, and the favourable reports of the effluent given by the County authorities bear testimony to the practical work done.

## **EXCREMENT DISPOSAL**

Is still carried on under the "Pail System." The work has been satisfactorily and regularly attended to during the year.

New property is put upon the Water Carriage system. House refuse is removed by District Council.

## **WATER SUPPLY.**

Most of our property is now supplied by the Rochdale Corporation Waterworks.

Many of the old houses continue to use water from wells or springs, liable at times to intermittant pollution during heavy rains.

## **HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.**

Extensive structural alterations have been made to meet the increased demand on our resources during the late epidemic of Small-pox.

## **SLAUGHTER-HOUSES**

Have been inspected, put upon a satisfactory basis, and are now well adapted for present use.



## **BAKE-HOUSES.**

We have two public bake-houses in the district, each fulfilling the requirements of your Authority.

## **FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.**

Section 132 of the above Act requires that all workshops shall be under the control of the Sanitary Authority, that the Medical Officer of Health shall report on the administration of the Act, and forward the same to the Secretary of State. Special attention is to be given to the following details:—

- 1st. Sufficient cubic air space, 250 cubic feet for each person employed.
- 2nd. Proper ventilation, lighting and heating.
- 3rd. Conveyance of infection by certain industries.
- 4th. To see that proper means of escape are provided in case of fire, &c.

It has not been necessary to report specifically under this head during the year. Reference is made by the Sanitary Inspector to the steps taken by him with regard to the question of fire escapes.

## **SPECIAL REPORTS.**

The Local Government Act 1888, Section 19, and the General Order (March 23rd, 1891) require Medical Officers of Health to send a copy of every "Special" report to the Local Government Board, and also to the County Council. Two reports have been forwarded accordingly during the year on the Small-pox epidemic, and the sanitary condition of John street.

## GENERAL REMARKS.

The report for the year as a whole may be considered very satisfactory.

The mortality returns are favourable, considering the prevalence of small-pox, scarlatina, and whooping cough in the district.

The amount of practical work done by your Sanitary Inspector during the year justifies the change made by the separation of the two offices previously held by the Surveyor.

In concluding my report for the year 1903, I desire to acknowledge the great courtesy shown, and assistance received from the Chairman (Mr. Stuttard) and Members of the Health Committee during the Small-pox epidemic. I am also much indebted to Mr. Clegg and Mr. Cordingley for their valuable assistance in work undertaken in the interest of your Authority.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER WELSH, M.D.

# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Year ending December 31st, 1903.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Whitworth Urban  
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my first Annual Report for the twelve months ending 31st of December, 1903.

The following schedule gives in brief the details of the cases attended to by me during the year :—

|  |    |
|--|----|
| New water closets erected.....                                     | 10 |
| New pail closets.....  | 4  |
| Closets re-constructed on the Waste Water Carriage<br>system ..... | 6  |
| Closets re-constructed on the Fresh Water System....               | 2  |
| Closets repaired.....  | 6  |
| Closets cleaned, &c. ....  | 2  |
| Passages cleaned, &c.....  | 7  |
| Covered ash-pits erected.....                                      | 2  |
| Ash-pits repaired,.....  | 22 |
| Houses drained and house drains connected to public<br>sewer. .... | 64 |
| New drains laid, not to sewer .....                                | 8  |
| Houses drained cleaned and repaired .....                          | 17 |
| Slopstone pipes disconnected from drains.....                      | 18 |
| Gullies, grates, &c., cleaned out.....                             | 8  |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Stagnant water removed from cellars .....             | 2  |
| Middens, manure and rubbish removed.....              | 23 |
| Defective eaves and downtroughs .....                 | 33 |
| Defective traps and inlets.....                       | 22 |
| Filthy premises .....                                 | 12 |
| Floors relaid with flags or with cement concrete..... | 2  |
| Defective bath wastes, &c.....                        | 3  |
| Defective water closets.....                          | 4  |
| Miscellaneous cases.....                              | 2  |
| Slaughter-houses visited and inspected.....           | 9  |
| Tripe dressing and cleaning premises inspected.....   | 2  |
| Factories and workshops inspected, fire escapes ..... | 31 |
| Bake-houses inspected.....                            | 2  |
| Overcrowded dwellings .....                           | 5  |

To abate the said nuisances 87 Preliminary and Verbal Notices, 66 letters, and 1 Formal Notice have been issued.

818 loads of nightsoil have been deposited at the Outfall Works.

Two notices from H. M. Inspector of Factories have been received, one has been complied with and the other is in hand.

One application has been received during the year for a house to be registered as a Common Lodging House, which was refused. There are at present no Registered Common Lodging Houses in the district.

The Slaughter-houses are now all licensed and connected to the public sewer with the exception of one at Healey which the Surveyor has in hand. They are frequently inspected and are kept in a satisfactory condition. One slaughter-house has been condemned and is now closed.

We have in the District 69 Farms of which 55 have

been inspected and measurements taken. Many are defective in ventilation and light, the water supplies of some are not satisfactory, and the drainage defective.

One cow-shed was found in such a condition as to justify its dis-continuation.

The removal of ashes and exereta is very satisfactory

Two complaints were received during the year and these were immediately attended to.

An outbreak of Small-pox occurred on the 24th of March, 1903, and lasted to the 2nd of August, during this period we had 14 cases notified and 13 treated, all were removed to the Hospital and every precaution taken to prevent the further spread of the disease. There were no fatal cases. The bedding in each case was destroyed and the rooms fumigated.

The Hospital is in thorough order and ready in case of emergency.

Under the Infectious Disease Notification Act 1889 and 1899, the following cases have been reported:—

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Scarlatina .....    | 59 |
| Enteric Fever ..... | 10 |
| Erysipelas .....    | 18 |
| Small-pox .....     | 14 |

The following cases of Scarlatina have occurred in children attending the undermentioned Schools:—

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Healey School .....          | 1  |
| Hallfold School .....        | 9  |
| Lloyd Street School .....    | 11 |
| Facit Wesleyan School .....  | 4  |
| Facit St. John's School..... | 5  |
| Shawforth Wesleyan School... | 10 |



One great need we experience is personal cleanliness in the poorer parts of the District. The close relation between cleanliness, ventilation, and good health, does not appear to be understood. In many houses the windows are never opened, and fresh air is almost entirely excluded from the dwellings. A plan adopted in some towns is to supply lime, and to lend brushes free of cost for limewashing. If some definite action could be taken whereby the poorer class could be taught the advantages of cleanliness and ventilation, the health of the District would be improved.

I beg to take this opportunity of thanking the Council for appointing me a delegate to the " Sanitary Congress " held at Bradford in July last. A full report of the proceedings and papers read were handed in by me on my return.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JNO. J. CORDINGLEY, R.P.C., A.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.







TABLE I.

## WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 and Previous Years.

| YEAR.                               | Population<br>estimated to<br>Middle of each<br>Year. | BIRTHS. |        | TOTAL DEATHS REGISTER IN THE<br>DISTRICT. |   |              |        | TOTAL<br>DEATHS<br>IN<br>PUBLIC<br>INSTITU-<br>TIONS IN<br>THE<br>DISTRICT. | Deaths of<br>Non-<br>residents<br>registered<br>in Public<br>Institu-<br>tions in<br>the<br>District. | Deaths of<br>Residents<br>registered<br>in Public<br>Institu-<br>tions<br>beyond<br>the<br>District. | NETT DEATHS AT ALL<br>AGES BELONGING TO<br>THE DISTRICT. |        |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------|--------|---|---|--------------|--------|---|---|--|--|--------|
|                                     |   | Number. | Rate * | Under 1 Year of Age                       |   | At all Ages. |        |   |   |  | Number.  | Rate * |
|                                     |   |         |        | Number.                                   | Rate per<br>1,000<br>Births<br>registered | Number.      | Rate * |   |   |  |  |        |
| 1                                   | 2   | 3       | 4      | 5   | 6   | 7            | 8      | 9   | 10  | 11   | 12   | 13     |
| 1893.                               | 9,766   | 236     | 24.1   | 42  | 177.9                                     | 177          | 18.1   |   |   |  |  |        |
| 1894.                               | 9,766   | 228     | 23.3   | 29  | 127.1                                     | 140          | 14.3   |   |   |  |  |        |
| 1895.                               | 10,100  | 207     | 20.4   | 37  | 178.7                                     | 186          | 18.4   |   |   |  |  |        |
| 1896.                               | 10,100  | 218     | 21.5   | 39  | 178.8                                     | 182          | 18.0   |   |   |  |  |        |
| 1897.                               | 10,100  | 230     | 22.7   | 48  | 208.6                                     | 179          | 16.7   |   |   |  |  |        |
| 1898.                               | 10,100  | 245     | 24.2   | 30  | 122.4                                     | 171          | 16.7   |   |   |  |  |        |
| 1899.                               | 10,150  | 232     | 22.8   | 30  | 129.3                                     | 177          | 17.4   |   |   |  |  |        |
| 1900.                               | 10,150  | 253     | 24.9   | 44  | 173.9                                     | 200          | 19.6   |   |   |  |  |        |
| 1901.                               | 9,578   | 200     | 20.1   | 30  | 150.0                                     | 165          | 17.2   |   |   |  |  |        |
| 1902.                               | 9,649   | 218     | 22.5   | 22  | 100.9                                     | 147          | 15.2   |   |   |  |  |        |
| Averages<br>for years<br>1893-1902. | 9945.9  | 226.7   | 22.65  | 35.1                                      | 154.8                                     | 172.4        | 17.2   |   |   |  |  |        |
| 1903.                               | 9,688   | 218     | 22.5   | 31  | 142.2                                     | 139          | 14.3   |   |   |  |  |        |

\* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres  
(exclusive of area  
covered by water). } 6,200.

Total population at all ages 9,578.

Number of inhabited houses, 2,325.

Average number of persons per house, 4.1.

At Census of  
1901



TABLE II.

## WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1903 and previous years.

| NAMES OF LOCALITIES. | HEALEY WARD.   |                         |                        |                         | WHITWORTH WARD.                                      |                         |                        |                         | FACIT WARD.  |                         |                        |                         | SHAWFORTH WARD.                                      |                         |                        |                         |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
|                      | Population esti-<br>mated to middle<br>of each year. | Births regis-<br>tered. | Deaths at all<br>Ages. | Deaths under<br>1 year. | Population esti-<br>mated to middle<br>of each year. | Births regis-<br>tered. | Deaths at all<br>Ages. | Deaths under<br>1 year. | Population esti-<br>mated to middle<br>of each year. | Births regis-<br>tered. | Deaths at all<br>Ages. | Deaths under<br>1 year. | Population esti-<br>mated to middle<br>of each year. | Births regis-<br>tered. | Deaths at all<br>Ages. | Deaths under<br>1 year. |
| 1893 ...             |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |
| 1894 ...             |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |
| 1895 ...             |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |
| 1896 ...             |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |
| 1897 ...             |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |
| 1898 ...             |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |
| 1899 ...             |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |
| 1900 ...             |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |
| 1901 ...             | 1690   | 23                      | 26                     | 2                       | 3432   | 75                      | 59                     | 13                      | 2705   | 59                      | 33                     | 4                       | 1751   | 43                      | 47                     | 11                      |
| 1902 ...             | 1703   | 32                      | 19                     | 2                       | 3450   | 87                      | 69                     | 10                      | 2727   | 52                      | 30                     | 7                       | 1769   | 47                      | 29                     | 3                       |
|                      |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |  |                         |                        |                         |
| 1903 ...             | 1714   | 42                      | 20                     | 3                       | 3458   | 70                      | 53                     | 13                      | 2737   | 56                      | 36                     | 10                      | 1779   | 50                      | 30                     | 5                       |







TABLE III.

## WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1903.

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.    | CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT. |                |        |         |          |          |                | TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY. |            |        |            | NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY. |            |        |            |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------------|--|------------|--------|------------|--|------------|--------|------------|
|                        | At all Ages.                      | At Ages—Years. |        |         |          |          |                | Healey                                 | Whitworth. | Facit. | Shawforth. | Healey.  | Whitworth. | Facit. | Shawforth. |
|                        |                                   | Under 1        | 1 to 5 | 5 to 15 | 15 to 25 | 25 to 65 | 65 and upwards |  |            |        |            |  |            |        |            |
| Small-pox ... ..       |                                   |                |        |         |          |          |                | 2                                      | 5          | 7      |            |  |            |        |            |
| Cholera ... ..         |                                   |                |        |         |          |          |                |  |            |        |            |  |            |        |            |
| Diphtheria ... ..      |                                   |                |        |         |          |          |                |  |            |        |            |  |            |        |            |
| Membranous croup ...   |                                   |                |        |         |          |          |                |  |            |        |            |  |            |        |            |
| Erysipelas ... ..      |                                   |                |        |         |          |          |                | 3                                      | 9          | 4      | 2          |  |            |        |            |
| Scarlet fever ... ..   |                                   |                |        |         |          |          |                | 6                                      | 24         | 21     | 8          |  |            |        |            |
| Typhus fever ... ..    |                                   |                |        |         |          |          |                |  |            |        |            |  |            |        |            |
| Enteric fever ... ..   |                                   |                |        |         |          |          |                |  | 2          | 8      |            |  |            |        |            |
| Relapsing fever ... .. |                                   |                |        |         |          |          |                |  |            |        |            |  |            |        |            |
| Continued fever ... .. |                                   |                |        |         |          |          |                |  |            |        |            |  |            |        |            |
| Puerperal fever ... .. |                                   |                |        |         |          |          |                |  |            |        |            |  |            |        |            |
| Plague ... ..          |                                   |                |        |         |          |          |                |  |            |        |            |  |            |        |            |
| Totals ... ..          |                                   |                |        |         |          |          |                | 11                                     | 40         | 40     | 10         |  |            |        |            |





TABLE IV.

WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

| CAUSES OF DEATH.<br><br>1                 | DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE<br>DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES. |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              | DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES<br>(AT ALL AGES.) |                      |             |                      |    |    |    | TOTAL<br>DEATHS<br>IN PUBLIC<br>INSTITU-<br>TIONS<br>IN THE<br>DISTRICT |
|---|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|----|----|----|---|
|   | All<br>Ages.<br>2  | Under<br>1 year.<br>3 | 1 and<br>under<br>5<br>4 | 5 and<br>under<br>15<br>5 | 15 and<br>under<br>25<br>6 | 25 and<br>under<br>65<br>7 | 65 and<br>up-<br>wards.<br>8 | Healey<br>9  | Whit-<br>worth<br>10 | Facit<br>11 | Shaw-<br>forth<br>12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |   |
| Small-pox ... ..                          |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Measles ... ..                            |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Scarlet fever ... ..                      | 1  |                       |                          | 1                         |                            |                            |                              | 1  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Whooping-cough ... ..                     | 1  | 1                     |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             | 1                    |    |    |    |   |
| Diphtheria and membra-<br>nous croup      |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Croup ... ..                              |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Typhus ... ..                             |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Fever { Enteric ... ..                    | 1  |                       |                          |                           |                            | 1                          |                              |  |                      | 1           |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Other continued                           |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Epidemic Influenza ... ..                 |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Cholera ... ..                            |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Plague ... ..                             |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Diarrhœa ... ..                           |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Enteritis ... ..                          |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Puerperal fever ... ..                    |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Erysipelas ... ..                         |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Other septic diseases ... ..              |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Phthisis... ..                            | 12   |                       |                          | 1                         | 3                          | 8                          |                              | 1  | 5                    | 3           | 3                    |    |    |    |   |
| Other tubercular di-<br>seases            | 4  | 1                     | 2                        |                           |                            | 1                          |                              |  | 1                    | 2           | 1                    |    |    |    |   |
| Cancer, malignant di-<br>sease            | 13   |                       |                          |                           |                            | 9                          | 4                            | 3  | 4                    | 1           | 5                    |    |    |    |   |
| Bronchitis ... ..                         | 12   | 4                     |                          |                           |                            | 6                          | 2                            |  | 8                    | 1           | 3                    |    |    |    |   |
| Pneumonia ... ..                          | 11   | 2                     |                          |                           | 1                          | 5                          | 3                            | 2  | 6                    | 3           |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Pleurisy ... ..                           | 1  |                       |                          |                           |                            | 1                          |                              |  |                      | 1           |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Other diseases of Res-<br>piratory organs |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Alcoholism }<br>Cirrhosis of liver }      | 1  |                       |                          |                           |                            | 1                          |                              |  |                      |             | 1                    |    |    |    |   |
| Venereal diseases ... ..                  |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Premature birth ... ..                    |  |                       |                          |                           |                            |                            |                              |  |                      |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Diseases and accidents<br>of parturition  | 1  |                       |                          |                           |                            | 1                          |                              |  |                      | 1           |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Heart disease ... ..                      | 6  |                       |                          | 1                         |                            | 2                          | 3                            | 5  |                      | 1           |                      |    |    |    |   |
| Accidents ... ..                          | 4  |                       | 2                        |                           | 1                          | 1                          |                              | 1  | 1                    | 1           | 1                    |    |    |    |   |
| Suicides... ..                            | 2  |                       |                          |                           |                            | 2                          |                              | 1  |                      |             | 1                    |    |    |    |   |
| Coroner's enquiry & Inq.                  | 2  |                       |                          |                           |                            | 2                          |                              | 1  | 1                    |             |                      |    |    |    |   |
| All other causes ... ..                   | 67   | 23                    | 3                        | 1                         | 3                          | 19                         | 18                           | 5  | 27                   | 21          | 14                   |    |    |    |   |
| All causes ... ..                         | 139  | 31                    | 7                        | 4                         | 8                          | 59                         | 30                           | 20   | 53                   | 36          | 30                   |    |    |    |   |

